Appl. No. 09/892,678
Amdt. dated January 5, 2004
Reply to final Office action of November 12, 2003

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are pending in this application. Claims 1-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Claims 1-5, 7-11 and 13-16 are amended to clarify what is claimed as the invention. No new matter has been added to the application. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejection in view of the following remarks.

Claims 1-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,553,409 issued to *Zhang* in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,224,212 issued to *Rosenthal*. Applicants respectfully disagree.

The Office Action rejected independent Claim 1 by citing a procedure described in *Zhang* for synchronizing cached information. The Office Action further cited a procedure described in *Rosenthal* for tagging data.

Claim 1, as amended, teaches "comparing the count of the tagged value to the current synchronization checkpoint count value; and processing the notification when the count of the tagged value is current with respect to the current synchronization checkpoint count value..."

Neither *Zhang*, *Rosenthal*, nor any combination thereof teach the limitations of Applicants' Claim 1. *Zhang* teaches synchronizing content requested from a cache manager. The current state of operation of the cache manager may be varied with respect to whether and how the cached content is retrieved and/or synchronized. The variation of cache manager operation can depend on certain state such as the age of the content. *Rosenthal* teaches tagging data such that if an error occurs during the transmission of data, the tag associates the error to the corresponding data.

The synchronization of cached information of *Zhang* combined with the tagging of data of *Rosenthal* do not teach the method for processing a notification taught by Applicants' invention as claimed in Claim 1. Specifically, neither *Zhang*, *Rosenthal*, nor any combination thereof teach "comparing the count of the tagged value to the current synchronization checkpoint

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count value; and processing the notification when the count of the tagged value is current with respect to the current synchronization checkpoint count value." Since Applicants' Claim 1 includes limitations not found in *Zhang*, *Rosenthal*, or any combination thereof, Applicants' claimed invention is patentable over *Zhang* and *Rosenthal*. Thus, Claim 1 is allowable and notice to that effect is solicited.

Claims 7 and 13, as amended, contain essentially the same limitations as Claim 1. The Office Action rejected Claims 7 and 13 for the same reasons that Claim 1 was rejected. As discussed above, Claim 1 is allowable. Thus, Claims 7 and 13 are allowable for at least the same reasons that Claim 1 is allowable, and notice to that effect is solicited.

As discussed above, independent Claims 1, 7 and 13 are allowable. Thus, dependent Claims 2-6, 8-12 and 14-17 are allowable for at least the same reasons that the base claims on which they rely are allowable, and notice to that effect is solicited.
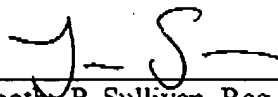
CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: January 12, 2004

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